

**Utah Martin Luther King, Jr. Human Rights Commission**  
**Rio Grande Board Room**  
**Wednesday, January 6, 2016**

**MLK Attendees:** Adrienne Andrews, Luis Garza, Dr. Rob Harter, Dr. Karen Johnson, Carla Kelley, Claudia Nakano, Ed Napia, Shawn Newell, Robert Rendon, Lavinia Taumoepeau-Latu

**Excused:** Dr. Forrest Crawford, Beth Martial

**Unexcused:** Jasen Lee

**Guests:** Rozanna Benally-Sagg, Julie Fisher, Jenny Hor, Anna Oldroyd, Yajanetsy Ruano

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**Welcome – Dr. Rob Harter**

Dr. Rob Harter welcomed attendees to the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Shawn Newell motioned to approve the minutes from December 2, 2015. Adrienne Andrews seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Claudia Nakano made the following announcements:

- MCA is in conversation with Ogden City, Weber State University, and Weber Arts Council to move forward with a mural wall art along the city's 25<sup>th</sup> Street.
- The NAACP Salt Lake Branch is hosting an MLK luncheon on January 18 at noon. It will be held at the Little America Hotel. An individual ticket is \$75. Shawn Newell added that he purchased a table and will offer any remaining seats to interested commission members.
- Weber State University and the NAACP Ogden Branch are hosting their annual MLK Freedom Breakfast and March on January 18. Adrienne Andrews shared that the event will feature a panel discussion on the school to prison pipeline.
- The Utah State Board of Education is in the process of dissolving the Coalition of Minorities Advisory Committee (CMAC). The resolution proposes the creation of the Advisory Committee on Equity of Educational Services for Students (ACEESS) to replace CMAC. In the resolution, ACEESS will comprise of five members from the identified racial groups and four additional members with expertise in working with at-risk students.

Dr. Harter asked commission members to represent the commission by attending different MLK events. He also notified commission members about the recently released report *Utah Health Status by Race and Ethnicity 2015*.

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Review – Commission Discussion**

Shawn Newell liked the flow of the event explaining that he felt the program kept everyone engaged.

Adrienne Andrews saw news coverage and noted that Weber State University President Chuck Wight was in attendance. Adrienne also added that she would have preferred seeing more money being raised upfront rather than towards the latter part of the planning stages.

Luis Garza enjoyed listening to the keynote speaker. He noticed the majority of students in attendance were students of color and wished more white students attended stating that the messages were for everyone.

Ed Napia asked if the support, or lack thereof, of university presidents is indicative of their views toward disparity groups. Adrienne responded by stating that University of Utah President David Pershing has created programs for the retention and recruitment of students, faculty, and staff. Robert Rendon concurred and added that 30 percent of the University of Utah's incoming freshmen are underrepresented students. Adrienne said that Salt Lake Community College President Deneece Huftalin is also committed to underrepresented groups. Dr. Harter stated that the end of the semester may have played a role in the

absence of university representatives. Adrienne suggested collaborating with both college presidents and school superintendents to engage more of their students.

Dr. Harter asked the commission what they would like to do with the 17 remaining framed awards. Commission members provided the following suggestions:

- Provide the awards to former commission members.
- Provide two of the awards to Governor Gary Herbert and Lt. Governor Spencer Cox for their support.
- Hand out awards at an event at a locale where the recipient is from.
- Set a precedent for future commissions where they continue to provide awards created by different artists.

Adrienne proposed recognizing community members who are “drum majors for justice” and suggested the following for the awards:

- Nominations will be accepted state-wide and open to the public.
- Nominations will need to include supporting documents.
- The commission or a subcommittee will review the created criteria and make a selection.
- Awards will be given to no more than three individuals each year.

Adrienne and Robert offered to create a set of criteria for the awards. Claudia suggested selecting President Wight as a recipient of the award. Commission members discussed handing the award at a commission meeting held on Weber State University’s campus or at an upcoming event held in February.

**MOTION:** Robert Rendon motioned to select President Chuck Wight as a recipient of the Utah MLK Commission award. Ed Napia seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

#### **King Conversation Series – Commission Discussion**

Commission members shared the following topics as potential themes for this year’s King Conversation Series:

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| • Black Lives Matter             | • Community building and revitalization |
| • Hate crime legislation         | • Civic engagement                      |
| • Poverty                        | • Homelessness                          |
| • The V(i)llage                  | • Third spaces (e.g., 24-hour library)  |
| • Police and community relations | • Domestic violence                     |
| • Refugees                       | • Women transitioning out of prison     |

Claudia also suggested collaborating with the Department of Workforce Services and its director Jon Pierpont as the agency focuses on refugees and intergenerational poverty. Julie Fisher added that the MLK Commission might want to consider a joint meeting with the Multicultural Commission in St. George. Ed stated a state-wide domestic violence conference will be held in St. George on April 14 and 15 and commission members might want to consider a meeting around this time.

Dr. Harter asked commission members to look at their schedules, find a topic they want to focus on, and provide updates on how they want to host their event for the King Conversation Series.

#### **Hate Crime Forums – Commission Discussion**

Dr. Harter thanked Dr. Karen Johnson for taking the initiative to write an op-ed for the Salt Lake Tribune. In addressing future concerns, he wanted commission members to keep in mind that letters must be sent to the Governor’s Office for their approval, which may result in editing changes and delays in response.

Dr. Johnson would like to begin discussions on hate crimes by hosting a forum. As part of the conversations, she would like to include the Southern Poverty Law Center’s guide on community responses to hate crimes.

Shawn applied to be part of the FBI Citizens Academy to learn more about the process of investigating hate crimes. The course is six weeks long. Applications to be part of the Academy are due on January 8.

Ed stated that hate crimes on reservations typically go unnoticed by the public and media. He wants others to know that hate crimes are not unique to cities.

Carla Kelley suggested speaking about the issue on the radio with Doug Fabrizio. A forum could be hosted at the library and broadcasted over the radio. Other options for media stations include KUED at the University of Utah and KCLR, which hosts Native American and Pacific Islander shows.

Dr. Johnson prefers responding as a commission to hate crime incidents instead of individually to allow for a collective voice of moral reason. She would also like to see the creation of a task force to revisit the hate crime bill. Dr. Harter asked Dr. Johnson to possibly lead a King Conversation Series on hate crime and suggested having the event held at the University of Utah.

Lavinia Taumoepeau-Latu shared her experiences of racially-charged incidents during a college election campaign. As a result, a bias incident reporting system was put in place at the University of Utah. She would also like to know what other colleges are doing to reduce such incidents. Adrienne added that Weber State University does not have a formal reporting system in place but incidents are reported directly to her and dealt with in the appropriate manner. She says that some institutions are reluctant to put in place a reporting system due to individuals using them in ways that are unintended.

#### **Other Business – Commission Discussion**

Julie thanked commission members for their efforts towards the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary event and announced Geoff Fattah is leaving his position to work for Administrative Courts. The Department of Heritage and Arts will be recruiting for a public information officer and the recruitment is open to the public.

Robert suggested having the April meeting at Brigham Young University. Commission members stated that it would depend on whether or not they are not able to attend a meeting in St. George with the Multicultural Commission.

#### **Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Adrienne Andrews motioned to adjourn the meeting. Robert Rendon seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

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#### **Action Items**

The next MLK meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 2016 from 10:00 to 11:30 A.M. in the Rio Grande Board Room.

Upcoming Meetings (first Wednesdays of every month in the Rio Board Room):

March 2

April 6

May 4

June 1

July 6

August 3

September 7

October 5

November 2

December 7